REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 19, 21 and 23-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 19 and 21 are amended to recite the subject matter of claims 20 and 22, respectively, and claims 20 and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chavis in the February 2, 2009 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,668,289); and claims 25-29 are rejected over 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Cheng in view of "merely selecting a specific type of device to utilize." The rejection of previously canceled claims 17 and 18 is moot and the rejections of the remaining claims are respectfully traversed.

Cheng does not teach or render obvious every claimed feature of independent claims 1, 13, 15 and 23. Cheng does not teach or render obvious "additional installing means for performing an additional installation process for recording at least one of the function-specific device specification data and the device driver specification data in an additional registration area in association with device specification data, which is data indicating the device," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added), and as similarly recited in independent claims 13, 15 and 23.

The Office Action asserts that col. 1, lines 24-40, col. 3, lines 5-16 and col. 5, lines 14-21 of Cheng teach the additional registration step of independent claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 21 and 23. However, these passages merely relate to the installation of a software update that is stored on the vendor's database (see col. 1, lines 24-40; col. 3, lines 5-16; and col. 5, lines 14-21 of Cheng). The software update of Cheng is software installed as an addendum to the previously-installed driver software (see col. 1, lines 36-40). The update software is not the same software as the previously-installed driver software. Therefore, Cheng does not teach or

render obvious "additional installing means for performing an additional installation process for recording at least one of <u>the</u> function-specific device specification data and <u>the</u> device driver specification data in an additional registration area in association with device specification data, which is data indicating the device," as recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in independent claims 13, 15 and 23 (emphasis added).

Further, Cheng does not teach or render obvious "wherein the installing means records relationship between the group of device drivers and the device in an additional storage area, and wherein the uninstalling means cancels the plurality of device drivers in the group of device drivers by referring to the relationship between the group of device drivers and the device," as recited in independent claim 19 and "wherein the controller records relationship between the group of device drivers and the device in an additional storage area prepared in the memory, and wherein the controller cancels the plurality of device drivers in the group of device drivers by referring to the relationship between the group of device drivers and the device," as recited in independent claim 21.

The Office Action asserts that Cheng teaches the above features at col. 24, lines 31-61 (see Office Action, page 8, asserting that the passages applied with regard to claim 2 are also applicable to claims 20 and 22, the subject matter of which is now recited in claims 19 and 21, respectively). However, this passage of Cheng merely relates to storing and uninstalling previously installed software updates (see col. 24, lines 31-61 of Cheng). However, the software update of Cheng is software installed <u>as an addendum to</u> the previously-installed driver software (see col. 1, lines 36-40). The update software is not <u>the same software</u> as the previously-installed driver software. Further, this software update is stored in the same storage area as the original software (see col. 1, lines 36-40 of Cheng). Therefore, Cheng does not teach or render obvious "wherein the installing means records relationship between the group of device drivers and the device in an additional storage area, and wherein the

uninstalling means cancels the plurality of device drivers in the group of device drivers by referring to the relationship between the group of device drivers and the device," as recited in independent claim 19 and "wherein the controller records relationship between the group of device drivers and the device in an additional storage area prepared in the memory, and wherein the controller cancels the plurality of device drivers in the group of device drivers by referring to the relationship between the group of device drivers and the device," as recited in independent claim 21.
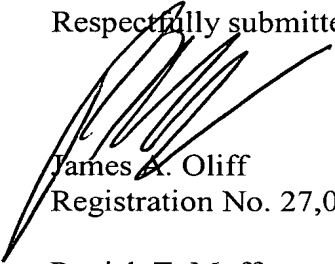
Regarding the §103(a) rejection of claims 25-29, the Office Action's apparent use of "Official Notice" does not remedy the deficiencies of Cheng.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 21 and 23 are patentable over Cheng. Claims 2-12, 14, 16 and 24-29, which variously depend from independent claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 21 and 23, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claims 1, 13, 15, 19, 21 and 23, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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Date: February 9, 2009

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